

**STATUS REPORT:
PARTNERSHIP WITH OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Agenda Item D-6
February 5, 2001**

The purpose of the partnership agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is to remove all vestiges of *de jure* segregation, to enhance historically black Kentucky State University, and to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Institutional implementation of the partnership commitments is well under way. The agreement is on track to be completed on schedule by December 31, 2002, provided that Kentucky State University can fulfill its commitment to renovate the Young Hall dormitory. The first status report was given to the Office for Civil Rights August 15, 2000. The OCR reviewed the report and concluded that public postsecondary institutions are making "tremendous" progress to increase recruitment and retention and developing and putting in place innovative programs to reach partnership goals.

The Committee on Equal Opportunities and the OCR are monitoring the implementation of the agreement. The CEO and the OCR visited each university. The OCR is completing reports on each campus visit. The council is reviewing benchmark funding and its impact on enhancement of Kentucky State University. The OCR encourages the institutions to discuss methods to share their difficulties and successes. A summary report of the status of the agreement commitments follows.

The primary focus of the partnership is the commitment by the state's elected and appointed leaders to reach the agreement's goals.

Summary Report Status of Partnership Commitments

Postsecondary Education System

<i>Commitments – Postsecondary Education System</i>	<i>Report Due to OCR</i>	<i>Commitment Status</i>	<i>OCR Response</i>
Report on the status of the renovations at KSU.	January 15, 2001 and 2002	Reported to OCR 8-15-00	Status report needed
Provide a copy of KSU's plan detailing the training activities to address the continued division of faculty.	February 15, 2000	Reported to OCR 8-15-00	Need schedule of 2001 events
Report on the benchmark funding process and its impact.	September 30, 2000, 2001 and 2002	Under review by SCOPE	
Report on the enhancement of KSU's education program.	June 30, 2000, 2001 and 2002	Reported to OCR 8-15-00	Report Received
Report on the appointments to KSU's Board of Regents.	September 30, 2000, 2001 and 2002	Reported to OCR 8-15-00	Report Received
Provide a copy of Northern Kentucky University's plan to increase recruitment of African American students.	June 30, 2000	Reported to OCR 8-15-00	Report Received
Provide a list of strategies, by university, to increase retention and graduation of African American students.	September 30, 2000	Report in Progress	Report Received
Report on the rates of retention and graduation, by race, for each public postsecondary institution and for the entire system.	September 30, 2000, 2001 and 2002	Report in Progress	Extended report date
Provide a report detailing the efforts to increase the number of African Americans enrolled in Kentucky professional and graduate schools.	October 30, 2000	Report in Progress	Extended report date
Provide a list of each institution's campus environment team.	June 30, 2000	Reported to OCR 8-15-00	Report Received
Report on the efforts of each institution to ensure and enhance the diversity of their faculty, staff, and cabinet.	October 30, 2000, 2001 and 2002	Report in Progress	
Provide a list of the names and titles of individuals at each university who are responsible for minority affairs/campus diversity.	June 30, 2000	Reported to OCR 8-15-00	Report Received

Postsecondary Education System

<i>Suggested modifications to the Partnership Agreement</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Status of Suggested Change</i>	<i>OCR Response</i>
Postpone FY 2001 visits to all university campuses, except KSU.	January – December 2001	Council staff agreed to this.	
The OCR will visit the KSU campus in FY 2001.	September –October 2001	Establish a date in February	
KSU and the Commonwealth should complete a comprehensive study of the physical facilities, academic programs, and university operations and management.	January – November 2001	Under discussion with KSU	
<i>Requests for additional information under the Agreement</i>	<i>Due to the OCR</i>	<i>Status of the OCR Request</i>	
Provide a copy of KSU and Council review of the impact of benchmark funding on the university.	Immediately	Under development	
Provide summaries of meeting between KSU, UofL, and UK to discuss academic program enhancements.	Immediately	Report requested from KSU.	
Report on the status of the students' living conditions at Young Hall Dormitory at KSU.	February 2001	Under Development	
Additional information from UofL on Pathways, REACH, students who participated in the summer transition program, copy of consultant's report on student support delivery system, and status of effort to hire a Vice Provost of Minority Affairs.	June 30, 2001	Request made to UofL.	

The U S Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

<i>Commitments USDOE, Office for Civil Rights</i>	<i>Date of Completion</i>	<i>Commitment Status</i>
The OCR will work collaboratively with CPE to host a conference in the fall of 2000 on campus diversity.	Fall 2000	Complete. Conference held September 25-26 at Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, Louisville, KY.
The OCR will provide technical assistance, as requested, to the Commonwealth, the universities, and community colleges in developing programs to enhance diversity.	Duration of the Agreement	No requests for assistance have been made.
The OCR will provide technical assistance, as requested, to KSU to assist the university to address the division between minority and non-minority faculty and staff.	Duration of the Agreement	At the November 15, 2000, CEO and OCR visit KSU reported significant success on this issue. A schedule of FY 2001 event requested by OCR.
The OCR will provide technical assistance, as requested, to the Commonwealth, the universities, and community colleges in identifying promising practices to increase African American students' access to, retention in, and graduation from public institutions in Kentucky.	Duration of the Agreement	Provided as part of the council and OCR Campus Diversity Conference September 25-26. Other assistance available on request.
The OCR will conduct annual site visits to each institution to assess and report on the institution's success and to provide technical assistance.	Duration of the Agreement	FY 2000 visits complete. The OCR is preparing reports of visits to EKU, MOSU, UK, NKU, UofL, and NKU.
The OCR will prepare a final report of the agreement implementation in March 2003. The OCR and CPE will determine whether the commitments have been fulfilled and the Title VI and <u>Fordice</u> issues have been resolved.	March 2003	
If the Title VI and <u>Fordice</u> issues have been resolved, the OCR will acknowledge formally, in writing, that Kentucky has eliminated all vestiges of segregation in its public system of higher education.	May 2003	